

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 CU-04 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 260450Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 0940

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: SQUABBLING WITHIN PEOPLES' PARTY

SUMMARY: TWO OF BHUTTO'S KEY AIDES ARE ENGAGED IN QUARREL, PARTLY IN PUBLIC, WITH SOME OTHER MINISTERS ALSO JOINING IN. RIVALRIES WITHIN RULING PEOPLES' PARTY NOTHER NEW AS VARIOUS PERSONALITIES SEEK TO PRESERVE OR IMPROVE PERSONAL POWER BASES. QUESTIONABLE WHETHER PROMISED PARTY REORGANIZATION WITH NEW CONSTITUTION AND PARTY ELECTIONS WILL LEAD TO WELL-ORGANIZED AND DISCIPLINED POLITICAL PARTY. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE PRIME MINISTER MENDS POLITICAL FENCES AND STUMPS IN HIS NATIVE PROVINCE OF SIND, SOME OF HIS MINISTERS APPEAR TO BE ENGAGED IN UNUSUALLY INTENSE AND PUBLIC POWER SCRAMBLE. IN MOST STRIKING DISPLAY OF PEOPLES' PARTY BICKERING SINCE PRODUCTION MINISTER PUBLICLY DENOUNCED CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TWO OF BHUTTO'S LEADING LIEUTENANTS ARE EVIDENTLY NOW AT ODDS, WITH SOME LESSER PPP LUMINARIES ALSO JOINING IN.

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2. ON JANUARY 18, LAW, PARTILMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

EDUCATION MINISTER PIRZADA ANNOUNCED THAT NO CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN PROVINCES; THIS PATRONAGE, HE SAID, WOULD BE RESERVED FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FOLLOWING DAY, PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER KHAR REFUTED PIRZADA, STATING THAT BHUTTO HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN PROVINCES. KHAR PRESERVED NICETIES BY SUGGESTING PIRZADA WAS PROBABLY UNAWARE OF KHAR-BHUTTO DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT HE ADDED THAT PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS WERE BETTER KNOWN BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS THAN CENTRAL MINISTERS.

3. ACCORDING TO ISLAMABAD RUMOR MILL, PIRZADA AND KHAR HAVE ENGAGED IN RUNNING DISPUTE OVER DISTRIBUTION OF GOP, FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES SCHOLARSHIPS TO PAKISTANI STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD. ACCORDING TO EDUCATION MINISTRY SOURCE, 50 PERCENT OF ALL SUCH SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW BEING AWARDED TO STUDENTS FROM SIND PERSONALLY APPROVED BY PIRZADA. KHAR APPARENTLY WANTS QUOTA SET ASIDE FOR PUNJAB, WHICH HE CONSIDERS IS BEING GRAVELY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN FAVOR OF PIRZADA'S HOME AREA OF KARACHI AND SIND PROVINCE. TO DATE, PIRZADA HAS EVIDENTLY REFUSED TO ALLOW KHAR TO DISRUPT ON-GOING ARRANGEMENT. (NUMBER OF PUNJABI CONTACTS HAVE BEGUN TO GROUSE THAT PUNJAB BEING NEGLECTED BY BHUTTO GOVERNMENT WITH SIND RECEIVING PROPORTION OF GOP RESOURCES UNJUSTIFIED BY PROVINCE'S POPULATION. SUCH COMPLAINTS AT THIS TIME MAY STEM IN PART FROM FACT THAT BHUTTO HAS SPENT MOST OF JANUARY IN SIND.)

4. HEALTH MINISTER RASHID, PERHAPS WITH BACKING OF OTHER ANTI-KHAR FACTIONS IN PPP, HAS UNDERTAKEN INTENSIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING CAMPAIGN IN RECENT DAYS. RASHID REPORTEDLY HOPES TO EXPLOIT PIRZADA-KHAR RIVALRIES AND FRICTIONS WITHIN PUNJAB PPP TO COALESCE ANTI-KHAR ELEMENTS IN PUNJAB AROUND HIS LEADERSHIP.

5. IN THIS REGARD, INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT BHUTTO'S DECEMBER 20 RAWALPINDI SPEECH SUGGESTS OTHER MINISTERS MAY ALSO BE SEEKING CUT KHAR DOWN TO SIZE. NUMBER OF PUNJAB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTERS, WHO WENT TO SPEECH SITE IN ADVANCE TO INSPECT ARRANGMENTS FOR KHAR, REPORTEDLY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO DO SO BY RAWALPINDI PPP LEADERS. SUBSEQUENTLY AT MEETING, KHAR SUPPORTERS WHO WERE SHOUTING SLOGANS PRAISING KHAR AS "LION OF PUNJAB" WERE SILENCED BY RAWALPINDI DISTRICT PPP PRIMUS INTER PARES LEADER, FEDERAL MINISTER MEER, WHO TOLD THEM THERE IS ONLY ONE LION OF PUNJAB WHO IS "LEADER OF THE PEOPLE" Z. A. BHUTTO.

6. FOLLOWING THREE PARAGRAPHS ON THIS SQUABBLE CONTRIBUTED BY CONGEN LAHORE:

7. PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER KHAR APPEARS TO BE RUNNING SCARED AND POSSIBLY FIGHTING FOR HIS POLITICAL LIFE. HE SEEMS TO BE THREATENED BY OTHER IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURES WHO PERHAPS COVET HIS ROLE AS CONFIDENT OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. (TIMING OF INFIGHTING IS POSSIBLY DUE TO REORGANIZATION OF FEDERAL CABINET DUE BEFORE MID-FEBRUARY.) THE MOST VISIBLE ATTACKS ON KHAR HAVE COME FROM PIRZADA AND RASHID. BUT MANY OBSERVERS IN LAHORE BELIEVE REAL THREAT TO KHAR IS FROM GOP FINANCE MINISTER, MUBASHIR HASAN. HASAN'S RELATIVE SILENCE IN PAST FEW WEEKS IN BELIEVEDBY THOSE OBSERVERS TO BE WILY STRATEGY TO KEEP KHAR OFF GUARD (KHAR OWES HASAN IMPORTANT FAVORS, AND MAY BELIEVE THAT HASAN IS ACTUALLY IN HIS CAMP). VARIATION ON THIS THEME SEES HASAN AS CRAFTY EMINENCE GRISE OF WOLFPACK LED BY PRIZADA AND RASHID, READY TO POUNCE INTO LEAD AT OPPORTUNE MOMENT.

8. OTHER INDICATIONS THAT KHAR IS UNDER ATTACK INCLUDE:
(A) TRADEOFF HE MADE LAST NOVEMBER 20 WHEN NEW PUNJAB CABINET WAS FORMED SHOWED FOR FIRST TIME A CHINK IN HIS ARMOR.
(B) CONVERSATION KHAR HAD WITH DPO GRIFFIN JANUARY 15, IN WHICH HE REQUESTED DOP TO CONTACT HIM PERSONALLY AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT WITH ANY INFORMATION HE MIGHT HAVE ABOUT SMUGGLING OR OTHER CORRUPTION. DURING CONVERSATION, KHAR INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM BHUTTO AND EVINCED CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS.
(C) ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN BEGUN BY CHIEF MINISTER OF JANUARY 16, EVIDENTLY ORDERED BY BHUTTO, AND OSTENSIBLY HONESTLY DIRECTED, BUT GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE FRANTIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTEMPT TO NAIL OPPONENTS BEFORE THE GET HIM. KHAR HAS HANDLED THIS "JEHAD" RATHER INEPTLY, DRAWING FIRE FROM PPP MPA WHO OBJECTED TO REMARK HE MADE AT SAHIWAL JANUARY 16 TO EFFECT HE WOULD ASK THE PEOPLE TO "GHERAO" CORRUPT MPA'S HE WAS FORCED TO MAKE A PARTIAL RETRACTION JANUARY 22 AT PPP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETING WHEN MPA'S TOLD HIM THAT IF THEY WERE GHERAOED BY THE PEOPLE, THEY IN TURN WOULD GHERAO CORRUPT MINISTERS, INCLUDING, BY IMPLICATION, KHAR.

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ACTION NEA-13

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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9. PRESS AND VARIETY OF PPP LEADERS HAVE KEPT UP RUNNING COMMENTARIES ON ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH LATELY HAS BEGIN TO BE DESCRIBED AS "PURGE". THIS REGARD, KNOWLEDGEABLE PAKISTAN TIMES SOURCE MAINTAINED JANUARY 22 THAT WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS ONLY TIP OF ICEBERG, AND THAT "PURGE" WILL BE CONDUCTED ALONG PERSONALITY LINES RATHER THAN FOR OVERRIDING REASONS OF CORRUPTION.

10. COMMENT: SUCH INTERNAL BICKERING WITHIN PPP NOT NEW AND NOT SURPRISING. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BHUTTO MAY WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE DISPUTES AS MEANS OF ENSURING HIS OWN CONTINUED SUPREMACY IN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY. IN ANY EVENT, THERE MAY BE LITTLE BHUTTO CAN DO TO CURB RIVALRIES BETWEEN PPP SECOND-ECHELON LEADERS BEYOND KEEPING RIVALRIES WITHIN REASONABLE BOUNDS, OUT OF NEWSPAPERS AND BY OCCASIONALLY SACKING A MINISTER WHO HAS MADE TOO MANY ENOMIES AND HAS TOO FEW FRIENDS. WHILE BHUTTO HAS REINS OF GOVERNMENT FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS, HE, LIKE OTHER STRONG LEADERS, MUST NONETHELESS COPE WITH QUARRELSOME LIEUTENANTS FREQUENTLY MORE INTERESTED IN PRESERVING OR EXPANDING THEIR PERSONAL POWER BASES THAN IN PERFORMANCE OF THEIR ASSIGNED GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS. PROMISED NEW CONSTITUTION FOR PARTY IN MARCH AND PROMISED SUBSEQUENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY ELECTIONS COULD ENTAIL CONSERABLE SHIFTS IN

EXISTING PARTY AND MINISTERIAL OFFICE BEARERS.
WHETHER "WELL-ORGANIZED AND DISCIPLINED" PARTY WILL
EVENTUALLY EMERGE, AS GOP INFORMATION SECRETARY HAS
SUGGESTED IN PRESS, IS STILL QUESTIONABLE.BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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